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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT Transport of Political Prisoners to Archangel

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. "On 14 June 53 a train with about 30 freight cars carrying 'convict manpower' (prinuditel-naya rabotchaia sila) left for the Estonian SSR for Archangel. Their destination was the Transport Department of the Archangel Administration of the MVD (Transportnyi Otdel Arkhangel'skogo Upravleniya MVD). Each car contained at least 40 political prisoners, the total being 1200-1500.
2. "Persons who spoke to the personnel of the convict train learned that it is the rule for them to fetch a train of this description from Estonia in June of every year. In some years the train has had up to 60 freight cars. The MVD Transport Department in Archangel distributes the prisoners among the various labour camps located on the White and Barents Seas, according to their manpower requirements. Estonia contributes only a comparatively small proportion of the manpower required. Most of it comes from the Ukraine and the Caucasus. As a rule the convict trains go only to Archangel. From there the convicts are moved to their destinations either on foot or by ship."

-end-

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